

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01111 241522Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----096377 241523Z /45
O R 241441T AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8662
INFO USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T REYKJAVIK 1111

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, IC
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN ICELAND AND NATO
SECURITY

REF: USNATO 07816

DEPARTMENT AND USNATO ARE IN BEST POSITION TO DECIDE ON
SECURITY MEASURES WHICH MAY BE ADVISABLE IN EVENT NEXT
ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT IS HEADED BY LUDVIK JOSEPSSON OR BY
ANOTHER MEMBER OF PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE. WE WOULD MAKE ONLY
TWO POINTS. FIRST ALTHOUGH WE BELIEVE THERE IS A BETTER
THAN EVEN CHANCE JOSEPSSON WILL NOT BE THE NEXT PRIME
MINISTER OWING TO DEEPLY-ROOTED SDP OPPOSITION TO HIM, THERE
IS ALSO GOOD CHANCE THAT NEXT GOVERNMENT WILL BE LEFT OF
CENTER AND WILL CONTAIN PA MEMBERS. ANY NATO SECURITY
MEASURES SHOULD TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT EVEN IF NEXT FOREIGN
MINISTER IS FRIENDLY TO U.S. AND TO NATO. SECOND, WE
FULLY SHARE USNATO'S CAUTION AGAINST OVERREACTING
TO ANY LEFT OF CENTER GOVERNMENT CONTAINING PA MEMBERS,
THERE IS A STRONG NATIONALIST, ALMOST XENOPHOBIC, STREAK
IN ICELANDIC TEMPERAMENT. WE SHOULD NOT OPENLY DO
ANYTHING THAT WOULD HELP PA TO INCITE IT TO THE
EMBARRASSMENT OF OUR MANY FRIENDS HERE AND TO THE
SECRET

SECRET

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DETRIMENT OF OUR LONGER-TERM INTEREST IN THIS COUNTRY.
BLAKE

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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